

# Northern Great Plains Network

## *Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report*

May 2002

***Herp Inventory:*** Dr. Brian Smith and his crew have visited SCLB, FOLA, KNRI, FOUS, JECA, MORU, and DETO. I accompanied them at DETO and was impressed with their work effort and expertise. Unfortunately, the weather has not cooperated to date, especially in the North Dakota parks, but hopefully things will pick up (we need wet warm conditions). That's one reason the herp work is spread over two years. We are also learning as we go. For example, we may reduce the nighttime field inventories (they may work fine in the desert, but not in our grassland habitats) and increase our effort in some other method. I'm pleased to announce that Dr. Smith has repeatedly expressed his gratitude to all the parks for their hospitality and assistance.

***Mammal Inventory:*** Dr. Cheryl Schmidt has bumped back her starting date a few weeks as she waits for her bat detection equipment to arrive. I know that she has been in direct contact with parks scheduled to have mammal work conducted in 2002.

***Bird Inventory:*** Arvind Panjabi and/or his field crew have visited WICA, JECA, MORU, and will soon visit DETO (if they haven't already). Next week he plans to be at KNRI and FOUS and then FOLA shortly thereafter. I had the pleasure of accompanying him at MORU. Once again I was impressed with his expertise and work ethic (my legs are still aching from walking transects at MORU).

***Biological Technician:*** I have hired Jon Dalglish for June and August. My goal is to have him focus on only a few parks in terms of populating the NPSpecies database (versus, trying to do a little at a lot of parks). As always, if you have some old observation cards or other records you'd like him to input to NPSpecies please forward them to me. I also expect Jon to assist the field inventory crews.

***Vouchers:*** Within a day or two I will be sending a letter soliciting bids for preparation and curation of voucher specimens to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, the University of Kansas, and the Bell Museum at the University of Minnesota. All three institutions have expressed interest in doing the work and are waiting to receive from me a more detailed scope of work.

***Budget:*** Due in part to Dawn's resignation we have some discretionary funds remaining this year. I plan to work with the Network Steering Committee to determine how to best spend these dollars. Now that the Network has its own cost code (2107) I have reconciled some old charges incurred by the Regional Office. I will need to also reconcile some expenses with BADL and THRO.